

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-21 are present in this application. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended, claims 1-6 have been canceled, and claims 7-21 have been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1-6 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0034713 to Nakai et al. ("Nakai"). The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 112 are respectfully traversed. Without acquiescing in the rejections, claims 1-6 have been canceled, and new claims 7-21 have been added. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) will be discussed with respect to the new claims.

Claims 7-21 recite a feature for accomplishing a functionality release by means of executing a release program on a host device (for example, a computer). Applicant respectfully submits that Nakai does not disclose such a feature. In contrast, Nakai discloses the use of a releasing key to release a restricted functionality. Nakai therefore does not disclose each and every feature of claims 7-21 and therefore cannot anticipate those claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Notable among the new dependent claims are claims 13, 15, 18, and 21, which essentially involve automatically release of a restricted functionality upon installation of the functionality restriction release program. Support for these new dependent claims resides, e.g., in paragraph [0036] of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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